

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 7, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 21, and 26; and add new claims 27-28 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A retractable cover for covering ~~structures a~~
structure, the cover comprising:

a flexible material portion including:

means for securing the cover to the structure;

at least one biasing means along an extendable length of the flexible material portion, the at least one biasing means providing for retraction of the flexible material portion from an extended state to a rolled-up state; and

means for attachment of the at least one biasing means to the flexible material portion;

wherein the at least one biasing means is attached in a removable relation to the flexible cover via use of the attachment means, wherein the attachment means is selected from the group consisting of:

a) a hook-and-pile system attached both to the flexible material portion and to the biasing means in a complementary manner;

b) a full sheath capable of enclosing a substantial portion of the biasing means;

c) a partial sheath capable of providing the attachment means to one or more designated portions of the biasing means; and

d) attachment apparatus, including screws, bayonet fittings, domes, and buttons;

wherein the flexible material portion forms the sheath configured to allow access to the at least one biasing means; and

wherein the at least one biasing means is a constant force spring and is of a length relative to at least a predetermined extendable length of the flexible material portion ;~~and~~

~~wherein either or both the flexible material portion and the structure includes means for securing the cover relative to the structure with which the cover is used.~~

Claims 2-13 (canceled).

14. (original) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 1 wherein the retractable cover includes at least one affixing means for removably restraining the cover in an extended form to cover a surface of the structure with which the cover is used.

15. (original) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 14 wherein the affixing means enables the cover to be restrained at any position along its extendable length to effect a partially or completely rolled-up cover as required.

Claims 16-17 (canceled).

18. (original) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 14 wherein the affixing means is a hook-and-pile fastener complementarily located on both the cover and the structure with which the cover is used.

19. (original) The retractable cover as claimed in claim 14 wherein the affixing means is magnetic means complementarily located on both the cover and the structure with which the cover is used.

Claim 20 (canceled).

21. (currently amended) A method of adapting an existing cover having a flexible material portion with an extendable length for covering an opening or enclosure, the method comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

providing securing means on at least one of the flexible material portion and the structure for securing the cover to the structure; and

attaching at least one biasing means along the extendable length of the flexible material portion of the existing cover, wherein the at least one biasing means is attached in a removable relation to the flexible cover via use of the attachment means, wherein the attachment means is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a hook-and-pile system attached both to the flexible material portion and to the biasing means in a complementary manner;
- b) a full sheath capable of enclosing a substantial portion of the biasing means;
- c) a partial sheath capable of providing the attachment means to one or more designated portions of the biasing means; and
- d) attachment apparatus, including screws, bayonet fittings, domes, and buttons;

wherein the flexible material portion forms the sheath configured to allow access to the at least one biasing means;

wherein the at least one biasing means is a constant force spring and is of a length relative to at least a predetermined extendable length of the flexible material portion ; and

~~wherein either or both the flexible material portion and the structure includes means for securing the cover relative to the structure with which the cover is used.~~

Claims 22-25 (canceled).

26. (currently amended) A retractable cover for covering ~~structures a~~
structure, the cover comprising:

a flexible material portion including:

means for securing the cover to the structure;

means for attachment; and

at least one elongate biasing means operable between an extended state and retracted state, the at least one elongate biasing means being maintained by the means for attachment along an extendable length of the flexible material portion, the at least one biasing means providing for retraction of the flexible material portion from an extended state of the flexible material portion to a rolled-up state of the flexible material portions, wherein the at least one elongate biasing means is attached in a removable relation to the flexible cover via use of the attachment means, wherein the attachment means is selected from the group consisting of:

a) a hook-and-pile system attached both to the flexible material portion and to the biasing means in a complementary manner;

- b) a full sheath capable of enclosing a substantial portion of the biasing means;
- c) a partial sheath capable of providing the attachment means to one or more designated portions of the biasing means; and
- d) attachment apparatus, including screws, bayonet fittings, domes, and buttons;

wherein the flexible material portion forms the sheath configured to allow access to the at least one biasing means; and

wherein the at least one biasing means is a constant force spring and is of a length relative to at least a predetermined extendable length of the flexible material portion ; ~~and~~

~~wherein either or both the flexible material portion and the structure includes means for securing the cover relative to the structure with which the cover is used.~~

27. (new) A retractable cover for covering a structure, the cover comprising:
a flexible material portion including:

means for securing the cover to the structure;

at least one biasing means along an extendable length of the flexible material portion, the at least one biasing means providing for retraction of the flexible material portion from an extended state to a rolled-up state; and

means for attachment of the at least one biasing means to the flexible material portion;

wherein the at least one biasing means is attached permanently to the flexible material portion via use of the attachment means, wherein the attachment means is selected from the group consisting of:

a) an adhesive; and

b) welding means;

wherein the flexible material portion forms the sheath configured to allow access to the at least one biasing means; and

wherein the at least one biasing means is a constant force spring and is of a length relative to at least a predetermined extendable length of the flexible material portion.

28. (new) A retractable cover for covering a structure, with the structure including securing means, the cover comprising:
- a flexible material portion secured to the structure by the securing means thereof;
 - at least one biasing means along an extendable length of the flexible material portion, the at least one biasing means providing for retraction of the flexible material portion from an extended state to a rolled-up state; and
 - means for attachment of the at least one biasing means to the flexible material portion;
- wherein the at least one biasing means is attached in a removable relation to the flexible cover via use of the attachment means, wherein the attachment means is selected from the group consisting of:
- a) a hook-and-pile system attached both to the flexible material portion and to the biasing means in a complementary manner;
 - b) a full sheath capable of enclosing a substantial portion of the biasing means;
 - c) a partial sheath capable of providing the attachment means to one or more designated portions of the biasing means; and
 - d) attachment apparatus, including screws, bayonet fittings, domes, and buttons;
- wherein the flexible material portion forms the sheath configured to allow access to the at least one biasing means; and
- wherein the at least one biasing means is a constant force spring and is of a length relative to at least a predetermined extendable length of the flexible material portion.